

A word of advice to the ‘Santas’ of the world

By NICOLE JOHNSON
Opinion editor

You know how Santa has a “naughty and nice” list for all the children of the world (adults, too)? Well, I think it’s bogus – not Santa; his list.

Now I’m mostly talking for children here, since a lot of adults should know better by now. Who is Santa, a jolly bearded man who is supposed to bring joy, to judge who is naughty and nice, right and wrong? Giving a child a lump of coal – equivalent to nothing – for Christmas is the same as crushing their little dreams of running down the stairs and practically trampling their parents just to see what Santa brought them. How could Santa be so cruel just because he thinks the child has not been good all year?

Who gave Santa the right to judge people and decide who does or does not get what for this one special evening based on their actions year-round?

Now, I’m going to stand up for all the kids

and say that Santa is wrong! Santa is bribing little kids. If kids are good, they get presents, and if kids are bad, they get coal. (Shame on you, Santa!)

Children believe so much in Santa that they write him letters, leave out milk and freshly baked cookies. To a child, Santa is as real as our failing economy – which a child could care less about. Children don’t need real life events to believe in; they need something better than that; they need something magical that can lift their spirits and make them strive to do something better with themselves. That is exactly what Santa does.

Santa gives children the hope that they will receive their hearts’ desire on Christmas day so long as they were almost squeaky-clean all year. Children think that Santa is somehow watching them, and that they must do everything in their power to please him and get on his “nice” list. Jolly Ol’ Saint Nick isn’t so good anymore. He fills children with guilt. The thing children look forward to most is opening their presents Christmas morning and

seeing what Santa brought them, and when they don’t get what they asked for in the letter they took the time to write and send to the North Pole, they think “did I do something wrong?” Those poor children think they did something bad and somehow ended up on Santa’s naughty list. The result – the child thinks they are a bad person, and their whole perspective of right and wrong, naughty and nice, is blurred.

Because Santa is so strongly engraved in children’s minds, they have to please him. It is the children’s job to do right by Santa. They have been taught to become dependent and not find their own way and reasoning to do things for themselves. They are not going to better themselves because they want to be good people – although we know that children are generally good – they will do it because they want Santa to know how good they’ve been.

(Again I say, shame on you, Santa!)

Santa has become a corrupt web of lies, bribery, and manipulation for children

all across the world. Santa has no right to judge a child, because all children are good. Some are just misguided, have the wrong type of upbringing, or are just not given the chance to prove themselves because people are constantly belittling them. Santa gave them hope, and just as Santa did, so can their parents, and the people around them.

Santa doesn’t need a naughty and nice list to see that all children are good. Santa surely doesn’t need to be watching them or checking up on them, and keeping tabs, either.

Santa, you should be ashamed of yourself!

That’s right Santa, I’m talking to you. By Santa, of course, I mean all the parents, guardians, aunts, and uncles who ever deprived a kid of one moment of happiness. Not all kids are bad apples, just like they believe in Santa with all their little hearts, they need something else to believe in that will give them that little push to do better (and I’m not talking about a bribe, either).

Christmas songs: best of best, worst of worst

By KYLE STEPHENS
News editor

I hear an unhealthy amount of Christmas music this time of year at my job. To endure the hours, I came up with this list of the top and bottom 10 Christmas songs, in no particular order.

I came to my conclusions based on overall pertinence to the season, though more frankly, sheer listenability. The bottom 10 are the opposite of this.

First, the top:

1. “You’re A Mean One Mr. Grinch,” from “The Grinch Who Stole Christmas”

The voice of Tony the Tiger, Thurl Ravenscroft did this slinky number. Another Christmas song that while associated with Christmas, avoids standard holiday spirit fare. Not a palette refresher, but a savory, salty snack.

2. “Rockin’ Around The Christmas Tree”

Rocking and Christmas – things can go wrong with that mix, though the original rockin’ Christmas song passes with flying colors.

3. “Silent Night”

I speak some German, so I tend to favor the original German text of this song, “Stille Nacht.” Even in English, the simple melody (one of the few I remember from childhood piano lessons) carries the tune softly and gently. I think one can be indifferent to this song, but it’s hard to hate it.

4. “Merry Christmas Darling”

Carpenters on the whole have a warm and well-orchestrated catalog of songs. “Merry Christmas Darling” falls under that umbrella, and I give it points for being a sincere contemporary hit. There are classics on my list, though not many from

the past 40 years.

5. The album “White Christmas,” Bing Crosby

I’m kinda cheating here, cramming an entire album into one slot. Let me say any of Crosby’s croonings are gold. Said croonings consist of classics and some more diverse titles such as “Mele Kalikimaka” (the “wise way to say Merry Christmas” in Hawaiian) and “Christmas in Killarney.” The radio cannot capture Crosby’s smooth baritone – the way I grew up with it (and I ain’t even that old), vinyl, is the only real way.

6. “Sleigh Ride”

The various recordings of this song are fun, though my best memories of this are in the form of energetic choirs, in formation, pantomiming sleigh rides and warm seasonal feelings. Bouncing along may as well be obligatory.

7. “Last Christmas”

An interesting seasonal song by the British Group Wham!, only related to Christmas inasmuch as it’s in the chorus: “last Christmas/I gave you my heart/but the very next day/you gave it away.” The use of Christmas as opposed to any other holiday heightens the mood, but otherwise it’s a refreshing contrast to all the cheer bordering on, if not falling deep into, sappy territory. As the Eurythmics’ prelude to Sleigh Bells ring goes, “Love can blossom any old time,” and so can heart-break. This is Christmas though, so a happy end ensues. Or maybe I’m just a sucker for 80’s drum machines doing what they do best.

8. Childhood Parodies

“Joy to the world/Barney’s dead/we barbecued his head!” “Jungle bells/Batman smells/Robin laid an egg/Batmobile lost a

wheel/and Joker took ballet!” Need I say more?

9. “Santa Baby”

The Eartha Kitt version, not the Madonna one (which I’d fit on the bottom 10 if I had room). Kitt, one of three ladies to play Catwoman on the 60’s Batman series, smoothly and sultrily reads off her Christmas list, with requests like a yacht (“and that’s not a lot”), and the deed to a platinum mine. With lines like “one more thing: a ring/and I don’t mean on the phone,” we know Eartha will get what she wants.

10. “What Child Is This”

Played to the tune of the traditional English tune “Greensleeves,” “What Child Is This.”

Now the bottom:

1. “Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer”
Continued on Page 4

2008 - The year of many trials and tribulations

Continued from Page 2

the Dow still has 70 percent of its value.

- **Republicans.** No toe-tapping or male page incidents this year, but Ted Stevens kept the GOP looking red in the face as he got nailed with corruption charges. But on the plus side: the free remodel has his place looking much nicer.

- **Bush.** Iraq skittering off the

rails, economy in the pits, approval ratings in the tank. The worst part? Nobody cares anymore. Yes, W., history will be the judge—but expect more commentary by Simon than Paula concerning this eight-year audition.

- **California.** After finally passing a budget a mere 85 days behind schedule, our elected officials discover...that the state’s as broke as a college student living on PB&J

and Raman. The solution? Cut state funding for college students living on PB&J and Raman. Can states get bailouts, too?

- **Vista.** Service Pack 1 came and went, but failed to address the underlying problem: that’s it’s a crappy OS. On the plus side, it opened our eyes to another technology with a somewhat limited user interface and compatibility issues, but greatly improved speed

and stability. I’m talking about the abacus, of course.

- **Mavericks.** Turns out Americans just weren’t in a mavericky mood in ’08. Better luck in 2012.

- **Yahoo.** It was an insultingly low sum when Microsoft offered it in April, but now, with the company valued at \$14 billion and slipping, that \$44 billion Microsoft offer doesn’t seem so bad.

- **GM.** Turns out that in today’s

scrappy world of business, making money requires manufacturing products people actually want. Say, how much for those private jets?

- **Music.** As long as TI’s offering me whatever I like, is some quality music too much to ask?

It was a year of extremes, but there were highs along with the lows. And just wait ‘til next year...

CAMPUS COMMENT >>

What won’t you be doing over Christmas break?



Najia Qadir
ENGLISH

“I will not be getting a job or doing anything productive.”



Rebecca Allen
HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

“Hopefully not sitting on my butt, because I’ll probably be working.”



Marcus Silva
MUSICAL THEATRE

“I won’t be at home a lot because I’ll be working or having fun.”



Kevin Rievera
MARINE BIOLOGY

“I will not be walking up 90 million flights of stairs.”



Michael Kwek
NURSING

“I won’t be driving around and wasting my gas.”